

even for a book of this nature, although this is partially compensated by the sections on the individual viscera.

The index has been shortened, but seemingly not to any consistent plan. Further systematisation of the index would render it more useful and still keep it within the limits set by the prevailing paper shortage. The eye, for example, could have been treated as the other organs are, and had all its abnormalities listed under an inclusive title. Congenital cystic eye appears in the index, but has been omitted from the text. The cranial nerves could well have been treated collectively, and that important peripheral nerve, the phrenic, included in the space thus provided. The addition of a very short bibliography, giving the sources of the works quoted in the text, would have been of great value to the senior student, and should not occupy much space. It is only irritating to be told that \*Flexner and Gellhorn (1942), using radioactive sodium and heavy water, have shown that, in the guinea-pig at least, there is constant exchange of these substances between the maternal circulation and the amniotic fluid, and then to be unable to look up the relevant paper for want of the exact reference. In the main, however, the book fulfils its primary object, and should prove its worth as an *aide memoire* to the student preparing for the Second Professional Examination in Medicine.

W. R. M. M.

\*FLEXNER, L. B., AND GELLHORN, A.: *Anat. Rec.*, 82, 411-412; 1942.

**HANDBOOK OF MEDICINE FOR FINAL-YEAR STUDENTS.** By G. F. Walker, M.D., M.R.C.P. Fourth Edition. Pp. 299. Sylviro Publications Ltd. 1948. 25s.

A fourth edition of this interesting and extremely useful Handbook of Medicine has been published. It was never intended to be another textbook or synopsis of medicine, but rather to aid the senior student and house physician in the difficult art of the "clinical approach" to bedside work. The author concentrates upon essential and everyday things and wisely omits rare and controversial matter. This new edition is up to date and the fundamental character of the book is carefully preserved. It is packed with useful and interesting information, written in a novel and racy style, and altogether is a well-produced *vade-mecum* which senior students, and, indeed, all clinicians, will enjoy and derive benefit from reading. It extends a friendly atmosphere from beginning to end, and one gets the impression all through of being led by the hand of a curiously kind, wise, and well-informed clinical teacher.

J. C. D.

**EMERGENCIES IN MEDICAL PRACTICE.** By C. A. Birch, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 468. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1948. 25s.

This book, compiled by eighteen contributors and edited by C. Allan Birch, might well be called a Handbook of Practical Medicine. Its subject matter covers a wide field, and a wealth of information is contained in its 446 pages. The reader will find in it not only precise details on the management of acute medical cases, but also practical advice on medico-legal questions and on medical problems peculiar to sea and air travel. Clinical conditions are clearly described, and differential diagnosis forms a considerable part of the text. For example, the chapter on cardiovascular diseases gives an account of the various types of syncope, and includes a table on the differential diagnosis of the tachycardias. The reader will also find details of the technique of medical operations, and even advice on the baptism of children. A brief account is given of streptomycin and the new anti-coagulants.

This book is well worth reading and re-reading. Those new to medical practice will find it invaluable as a guide to the problems they will meet, and experienced practitioners will also appreciate its practical value.

E. F.

**DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT, AND EAR.** Fourth Edition. A Handbook for Students and Practitioners.

This is a popular book, probably because of its clear, direct teaching, backed with the authority of the Edinburgh Medical School, and its shortness. The latest edition has kept these features. Brief mention of aviation trauma to the nasal sinuses and the middle-ear, a few lines on the